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CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~COUNTRY Soviet Zone of GermanyREPORT NO. TOPIC Volksopolizei Units in the Dessau Area

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25X1 EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT June 195025X1 DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 9 August 1950REFERENCES PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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REMARKS

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1. It was learned on 10 June 1950 that there were 2,300 police in the Bereitschaftspolizei units located in Grosskuehnau (M 52/E 07), and that they were quartered in temporary barracks between the Hindenburg Kaserne, which was vacated, and Schlosspark. Civilian workers lived in the police quarters during World War II.
2. The VP units included a Sonderkommando of 180 men who wore khaki-colored uniforms at the 1950 Whitsun rally in Berlin. The cut of the khaki-colored uniforms, which the Sonderkommando had in addition to the standard dark blue uniform, resembled the tropical dress of the German Africa Corps.
3. On 21 June 1950 a policeman stationed in Kochstedt (M 52/E 06) said that two VP Bereitschaften and an officers' instruction group were located in the Kochstedt billeting area. A third Bereitschaft, also subordinate to the headquarters in Kochstedt, was quartered in the neighboring towns of Kuehnau and Alten. *
4. The VP units were armed with German bazookas, heavy and light model 34 machine guns, model 40 submachine guns, 98-K carbines and models 08 and 38 pistols. They had one Tiger tank and two T-34 tanks. Training with tanks and heavy machine guns was given only to selected groups.
5. Weekend furlough has been restricted since early June 1950 and passes were issued to only 300 to 350 police.
6. An inn-keeper said that the Bereitschaftspolizei in Kochstedt had 1,300 to 1,400 police and 300 officer candidates.
7. Five Hundertschaften, each equipped with 98-K carbines, three German light machine guns and twelve bazookas, left the VP school in Kochstedt between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on 23 June 1950. Two groups of 15 men with one bazooka per man then marched toward the woods, while seven groups of 10-12 men returned to the barracks.

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Next Review Date: 2008

Approved For Release 2004/04/15 : CIA-RDP82-00457R005700080004-4

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 Class. Change To: AS S C
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* Comment. in the Dessau area, the 8th Bereitschaft (Sig), the 9th Bereitschaft (Sig or Engr) and a VP officers' school are believed to be located in the Flak Kaserne on the northwestern outskirts of Kochstedt, and the 7th Bereitschaft (Inf) in the cantonment on Hindenburgallee, toward Grosskuehnau.

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